

YOUR PROBLEMS

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann: Our son, 11, always has had trouble in school because he's too bright. Recently he was sent home by his English teacher who is a neurotic old maid. He threw a neraser at her during a disagreement. I'm not saying he did right, but this particular teacher isn't equal to handling the "gifted" child.

I went to school 27 times last semester to explain to the teachers the nature of the REAL problem. They just have it in for him. They say he doesn't work up to capacity, which can't be true.

Our son's I.Q. indicates he should be in a higher grade. The school refuses to cooperate because his record isn't "good enough." I feel his grades are no fair measure of his abilities. The teachers were completely unsympathetic. I told the English teacher if she provoked such hostility in a child that he would throw things at her it proved her own inadequacy. Shouldn't a word to the wise be sufficient?—Mother Of A High I.Q.

Not if it doesn't make sense. Your child has an additional handicap of which you're obviously unaware. He has an overly aggressive mother who is so busy running interference for him that she gets in his way.

Your son's I.Q. may be a humdinger but if, emotionally, he's still in kindergarten, what good is it? There's more to life than what's in the books. Forget about the Quiz Kid's brain and see what can be done to help him get along with people.

Stay away from school and leave the teachers alone. Take the boy to an expert in the field of child problems and learn how to channel his energies and super-brightness. A boy with the poor start you describe can grow up to be a nuisance to himself and everyone else. Give this "gifted" child an additional gift of some outside help.

☆☆☆

Dear Ann: I'm a girl 16 with what I consider a serious problem. I've been going steady with a college boy who is 21. We get along just fine and have no trouble if you know what I mean. He's a perfect gentleman.

I fixed my girl friend up with my steady's fraternity brother. We double dated. They sort of broke away from us during the evening and I didn't see her after that.

The next morning my girl friend's mother called my mother on the phone and boy, did the sparks ever fly! My girl friend had a little too much to drink and didn't behave like a lady. She got home very late, her clothes in a mess, and told her mother everything. Now I'm to blame for fixing her up with "that kind" of a boy. What is your opinion?—Miss Judged.

You are not responsible for your girl friend's behavior.

Too bad, however, you didn't know her better. A young lady who has trouble with one of the shortest and simplest words in the English language should not be "fixed up" with dates.

A 16-year-old who drinks could be headed for plenty of trouble, and if you're wise, you'll let her find it herself.

☆☆☆

Dear Ann: The problem of alcoholism appears in your column often and you seem to have an excellent understanding of it.

A friend of mine hasn't touched a drop in years. But she still feels it's necessary to announce in a social group that she doesn't drink because she's an "alcoholic."

This sounds as if she's confessing she's a drunk.

I've noticed some odd expressions, and have told her it isn't necessary to go into detail. Her reply was, "I'm doing something about MY problem. What are they doing about theirs?" I still think she's wrong—or am I mistaken?—Mary Ann.

Your friend is courageous, and I doff my bonnet to her. If she's willing to risk being "misunderstood" to educate others on alcoholism, she's to be admired in my book.

Many fall to realize that an alcoholic can never be "cured." The disease can lie dormant for years and in some cases it takes only one drink to set the entire treacherous cycle going again.

When well-meaning but ignorant friends urge her to take "just one," the shocking admission that she's an alcoholic may jolt them into silence and broaden their understanding.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of the HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)
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6 Local Bus Drivers in Competition

Six Torrance school bus drivers will compete for safety honors Saturday in the Fifth Annual Southern California School Bus Roadoo at Hollywood Park, Inglewood.

Rick Watts, school bus roadoo chairman, said the Torrance drivers will be among more than 100 contestants representing school districts and private bus contractors throughout Southern California. The all-day rodeo will include loading and unloading students, parallel parking, gear shifting, maneuvering an obstacle course, a written examination and other skill tests.

Torrance drivers entered are Albert Berg, 18823 Burin Ave.; Juan Bugarin, 513 E. 220th St.; Wayne Branum,

3139 W. 178th St.; Clarence Henneman, 618 S. Walnut St., Inglewood; James S. Smith, 21926 S. Vermont, and Alfred

Cub Pack 732 C
Awards were presented to members of Cub Pack 732-C, sponsored by the Torrance Elementary School PTA, at the group's last meeting on Friday.

Awards were presented to Dale Wilson, Kenny Holms, Ronald Berry, Alan Eaton, Tommy Kidner, Shelly Venable, Robert Sullivan, Bobby McGhan, Jimmy Lessinger, John Charles Thompson, Michael Fornelli, Raymond Sullivan, Ronnie Richards, Michael Katzorke and George Witz IL

Thompson, 2218 Cabrillo Ave. Both men and women drivers will compete using large, medium and small school buses. A similar rodeo will be held in Northern California at the Hayward Airport, May 11. Driver with the highest score of the two competitions will be named the "State Champion School Bus Driver."

The annual rodeos are sponsored by the California School Employees Assn. in cooperation with the Greater Los Angeles Safety Council, California Highway Patrol and representatives of insurance companies and bus manufacturers.

FEW CRIMES
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Carson Civic Group Meets

The regular meeting of the Carson Civic Betterment Assn. will be held at the Women's Clubhouse, 127 E. 220th St., Monday, at 8 p.m., with reports by several community civic organizations, and election of a vice president.

The association was formed several years ago to serve the civic needs of the Carson district. Dues are \$1 per year.

The membership chairman is Theo Bredahl, 605 E. 223rd St. At the June meeting the state highway department is scheduled to give a program about freeways. When completed, the Carson area will be served by three freeways. The Harbor Freeway will pass through slightly to the west, and the San Diego Freeway slightly to the north of the center of the Carson district.

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WCSO to Start Study Of 'Mission: U.S.A.'
The Women's Society of Christian Service at the Torrance First Methodist Church will begin the study of "Mission: U.S.A." next Monday.
The classes, using as a text the book, "Mission: U.S.A.," by James W. Foffman, will meet from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on four consecutive Mondays at the church. The public is welcome.